IT IS CLAIMED AS THE INVENTION:

1. A method for selecting a resource for use during execution of a software application, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving at least a portion of a software application for local execution;

(b) determining a resource to be used during local execution of the received software application portion;

(c) determining a set of one or more compatible versions of the determined resource for use with the received portion; and

(d) locating a compatible version from the determined set for local execution in conjunction with the received portion from a data store capable of storing a plurality of versions of one or more resources.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of locating the compatible version for local execution comprises the steps of:

(i) searching the local data store for one or more versions of the determined resource;

(ii) identifying the compatible version from the one or more versions resulting from searching the data store.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of locating the compatible version for local execution further comprises the step of (iii) retrieving the compatible version from a resource server and (iv) storing the retrieved compatible version in the data store, if the one or more versions resulting from the search does not include the determined compatible version.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of storing the retrieved compatible version comprises the steps of:

(A) determining a storage location in the data store based upon metadata associated with the retrieved compatible version; and

(B) storing the retrieved compatible version in the determined storage location.

5. The method of claim 1, and further comprising the step of (e) locally executing the received portion of the software application in conjunction with the located compatible version.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining the resource required for local execution comprises the steps of:

(i) accessing a configuration file based upon the received portion; and

(ii) retrieving identification information indicative of the resource from the accessed configuration file.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of determining the resource required for local execution further comprises the step of (iii) receiving the configuration file from a remote server.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of determining the resource required for local execution further comprises the step of (iv) requesting the configuration file from the remote server.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of determining the resource required for local execution further comprises the step of (iii) updating the configuration file.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein the configuration file stores information indicative of at least one resource required for local execution associated with each of a plurality of potential received portions of one or more software applications.

11. The method of claim 6, wherein the configuration file stores information indicative of a plurality of resources.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining the resource required for local execution comprises the steps of:

(i) analyzing the received software application portion for information indicative of the resource; and

(ii) identifying the resource based upon the information indicative of the resource.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining the resource required for location execution comprises the steps of:

(i) requesting information indicative of the resource from a server computer associated with the received software application portion; and

(ii) identifying the resource based upon the information indicative of the resource.

14. The method of claim 1, and further comprising the step of (e) repeating steps (b) through (d) with respect to one or more additional required resources.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the repetition step continues until all required resources for the received application portion have been determined.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein steps (b) through (d) execute a plurality of times in parallel with respect to a plurality of required resources.

17. A method of distributing executable code to select a resource for use during local execution of a software application, the method comprising the steps of providing an interface to a user that upon submission to a software distribution server causes the distribution server to transmit a plurality of executable instructions that upon execution by a system processor cause the system processor to perform the method of claim 1.

18. One or more computer readable media storing instructions that upon execution by a system processor cause the system processor to select a resource for use during local execution of a software application by performing the steps comprising of:

(a) receiving at least a portion of a software application for local execution;

(b) determining a resource required for local execution from the received software application portion;

(c) determining a set of one or more compatible versions of the determined resource for use with the received portion based upon the received portion;

(d) locating a compatible version from the determined set for local execution in conjunction with the received portion from a data store capable of storing a plurality of versions of one or more resources; and

(e) if locating the compatible version initially fails because the compatible version is not stored in the data store:

(i) retrieving the compatible version from a resource server; and

(ii) storing the retrieved compatible version in the data store by performing the steps comprising of:

(A) determining a storage location in the data store based upon metadata associated with the retrieved compatible version; and

(B) storing the retrieved compatible version in the determined storage location.

19. The media of claim 18, and storing further instructions that upon execution by a system processor cause the system processor to perform the additional step comprising of (f) repeating steps (b) to (e) with respect to a plurality of resources required for execution by the received software application portion.

20. A system to select a resource for use during local execution of a software application, the system comprising:

25

(a) receiving means for receiving at least a portion of a software application;

(b) resource requirement means for determining one or more resources required for local execution of the received software application portion and for determining a set of one or more resource versions compatible with the received software application portion for each determined required resource;

(c) resource storage means for storing a plurality of versions of at least one resource;

(d) resource location means for identifying in the resource storage means a compatible version of each determined required resource from the resource requirement means based on the set of one or more resource versions for each determined required resource and for retrieving the compatible version for each determined required resource for which no compatible version was present in the resource storage means during initial identification and identifying the retrieved compatible version for each such required resource; and

(e) resource loading means to load one or more resources located by the resource location means for local execution in conjunction with the received software application portion; and

(f) processing means for executing the received software application portion in conjunction with the one or more loaded resources loaded by the resource loading means.

21. A system to select a resource for use during local execution of a software application, the system comprising:

(a) a data store capable of storing application software and one or more versions of one or more resources for local execution in connection with the application software;

(b) a system processor in communication with the data store, wherein the system processor comprises one or more processing elements and wherein the one or more processing elements are programmed or adapted to:

(i) receive at least a portion of a software application for local execution;

(ii) determine a resource required for local execution from the received software application portion and a set of one or more compatible versions of the resource for use with the received portion;

(iii) search the data store for a located compatible version from the determined set;

(iv) retrieve and store in the data store a member of the determined set as the located compatible version if no member of the determined set is found in the data store from the search; and

(v) execute the received software application portion locally in conjunction with the located compatible version.